

Dec 8th, 2024 Christmas Lights – God is Light - John 1:1-9

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

When do you put up your Christmas decorations? Before Thanksgiving? After? 1st week of December? Why does decorating for Christmas bring so much anticipation and excitement for so many people? What about you? Why do you think that is?

Digging In

Question 1: Read John 1:1-3. These two verses are some of the most theologically rich and important statements of ALL of the New Testament. These verses show Jesus's eternal and preexistent nature in the Trinity! "The Word", or "logos" in Greek, is a clear picture of Jesus. This description of Jesus shows He was there at the beginning!

Read Colossians 1:16-17 – How do these truths work together to tell us about Christ.

Why do these things matter? Why does it matter that Jesus was "with God and was God?" How does Jesus' omnipresence "all-present" and omnipotence "all-powerful" nature give you peace today? How does this make you think about the Christmas story and what God did throughout Christ coming to earth?

Question 2: Read John 1:4-5. These verses describe Jesus as "light." **1 John 1:5** also describes God as light, there being no darkness in Him. Pastor Jeff shared God throughout the Bible being described as light. Why do you think light is such an important picture to describe what Christ came to do? Why do think the world is described as "darkness?"

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:5 and Ephesians 5:8.

The Bible describes Christ followers of "children of the light." Why do you think that is? What do you think it means to behave like children of light? Do you think your life matches that description?

Question 3: Read John 1:5-9. Pastor Jeff gave a challenge to evaluate our lives with the light of Scripture. The first thing was the "evaluate your walk". **Read 1 John 1:6-10.** Here are a few things to consider: (v.6) – fellowship with Him. (v. 7) fellowship with other Christians. (v. 8-9) confessing our sin.

All of these things Scripture gives us to evaluate or walk. What are some ways you practice these things if you life?

Read John 1:6-8. John the Baptist' role was to be a "forerunner" for Jesus. He was continually giving witness about Christ. How is your life reflecting the witness of Christ? Does your life bear witness of The Light? How can you be encouraged to do this?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?



Do you put up Christmas lights?

John 1:1-9

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² He was with God in the beginning.

³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

⁴ In him was life, and that life was the **light** of all mankind.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

1. Jesus is God
2. Jesus is Creator
3. Jesus is Life
4. **Jesus is Light**

God is light!

1. Genesis 1:3-4 – Creation
2. Exodus 3:1-6 – The burning bush
3. Exodus 13:21-22 – Pillar of Fire
4. Exodus 19:18 – Lord descended on Mt. Sinai like fire
5. Exodus 33:22 – God's glory passed by Moses
6. Exodus 34:29 – Moses' face radiant
7. Exodus 40:34-38 – God's glory filled the tabernacle
8. Matthew 17:2 – Transfiguration of Jesus
9. Acts 9:3 – Saul on the Damascus road
10. Revelation 21:23 – The Lamb and Glory of God in Heaven

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Light

vs

Darkness

Truth / Holiness / purity
Wisdom / joy / life

falsehood / evil / sin
ignorance / sorrow / death

How does this apply?

1. Do you believe in "The True Light"?
2. Do you behave like "children of light"?
 - a. Evaluate your walk (Eph. 5:8 / I John 1:6-10)
 - b. Evaluate your witness